

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 IO-06 EA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3423
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 8429

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, MOPS, SO, ET, MASS
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SUBJECT: SOMALIA

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 7148, B) STATE 180916, C) ISLAMABAD 8420

1. DURING WELLS/PETREE PRE-ENGA CONSULTATIONS WITH MFA
OFFICIALS ON AUGUST 15, ADDITIONA FOREIGN SECRETARY, NIAZ
NAIK, PROVIDED DETAILED ACCOUNT OF PAK-SOMALI RELATIONS.

NAIK MENTIONED THE RECENT VISIT OF SOMALI DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER BRIGADIER GENERAL OMAR HAJI MOHAMMAD (REPORTED REFTEL A), AND SAID THE SOMALI DELEGATION REQUESTED MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM PAKISTAN FOR SOME 300,000 SOMALI "PEASANTS" IN THE OGADEN REGION WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF ETHIOPIAN "AGGRESSION". NAIK SAID THAT WHILE PAKISTAN WAS NOT ABLE TO SUPPLY THE MORE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT REQUESTED, THE GOP WANTED TO ASSIST SOMALIA, AND HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE LIMITED QUANTITIES OF WW II VINTAGE ARMS AND AMMUNITION THAT WERE EXCESS TO PAKISTAN'S NEEDS. ONLY ITEMS NAIK SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED WERE 303 ENFIELD RIFLES WITH AMMUNITION, ANTI-TANK MINES, AND GRENADES. HE SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO LIMITED ARMS TRANSFER, PAKISTAN, AT THE DELEGATION'S REQUEST, AGREED TO PROVIDE "ONE OR TWO" VACANCIES IN PAKISTAN'S MILITARY TRAINING FACILITIES FOR SOMALI STUDENTS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOMALIS HAVE NOT YET NOMINATED CANDIDATES FOR THESE VACANCIES.

2. ACCORDING TO NAIK, THE SAME DELEGATION NOTED THAT THE USSR HAS PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA AND THAT CUBAN PILOTS ARE FLYING ETHIOPIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT AGAINST SOMALIA. NAIK QUICKLY POINTED OUT THAT PAKISTAN HAS NO PROOF OF THE LATTER CLAIM. NAIK SAID THAT THE SOMALIS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LARGE SOVIET PRESENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY AND WANT TO REDUCE IT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE SOMALIS ARE APPARENTLY AFRAID
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THAT THE HIGHLY SKILLED AND STRATEGICALLY PLACED SOVIET ADVISORS ARE NOT ACTING IN SOMALIA'S BEST INTERESTS AND HINTED THAT THEY MAY BE SABOTAGING SOMALIA'S EFFORTS AGAINST ETHIOPIA. NAIK ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS PAKISTAN'S UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME OF THE MORE AFFLUENT ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE ASSURED SOMALIA OF THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND THAT THE OPEC COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN MORE INTEREST IN SOMALI AFFAIRS, A TREND THAT PLEASED PAKISTAN.

3. NAIK TOLD US THAT PAKISTAN WAS WATCHING EVENTS ON THE HORN WITH GREAT INTEREST SINCE PAKISTAN, AS AN INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL STATE, CONSIDERED THE AREA STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT. NAIK SAID THAT THE GOP HOPED THE AREA WOULD NOT BECOME THE SCENE OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY, BUT THAT THE US WOULD NOT ABANDON SOMALIA IN ITS HOUR OF NEED. HE AFFIRMED THAT PAKISTAN SUPPORTED US EFFORTS TO ASSIST SOMALIA MEET ITS DEFENSE NEEDS AND THAT THE GOP HOPED THE SOVIET BASE AT BERBERA COULD BE "NEUTRALIZED". FINALLY, NAIK NOTED THAT PAKISTAN FELT MENGISTU'S GOVERNMENT WAS WEAK AND WAS CONCERNED THAT IF IT FELL THE REGION WOULD BECOME EVEN MORE UNSTABLE.

4. PETREE POINTED OUT THE US WAS ALSO CLOSELY WATCHING EVENTS THERE WITH SERIOUS CONCERN. HE NOTED THAT WE STRONGLY SUPPORTED OAU EFFORTS TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA, AND HOPED THAT THERE COULD BE AN AFRICAN SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. PETREE SAID THAT THE US WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE USSR'S INTENTIONS IN THE AREA BUT WAS DOING ALL IT COULD TO INSURE NO GREAT POWER CONFRONTATION DEVELOPED IN THE AREA. AMBASSADOR HUMMEL NOTED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT OAU MEETING ON THIS ISSUE DID NOT INCREASE THE PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, HUMMEL SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE SOVIETS COULD INDEFINITELY PLAY BOTH SIDES OF THE TRACK WHILE HOSTILITIES CONTINUED

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BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. THEREFORE, PROSPECTS FOR THE RUSSIAN GAMBIT IN ETHIOPIA DEPENDED HEAVILY ON THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESENT FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN.

5. IN VIEW OF NAIK'S FORTHCOMING COMMENTS ON PAK-SOMALI RELATIONS AND THE GOP'S EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT EVENTS ON THE HORN, WE FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RAISE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL B WITH APPROPRIATE MFA OFFICIALS. WE BELIEVE GOP WOULD WELCOME THE INFORMATION AND IT WOULD SERVE TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT. IN VIEW OF FAST BREAKING EVENTS ON THE HORN HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS AND GUIDANCE ON WHETHER IT BELIEVES IT APPROPRIATE TO APPROACH GOP ON THIS SUBJECT AT THIS TIME.

HUMMEL

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NNN

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